



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

***Raised Bill No. 1099***

LCO No. 5250



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION  
TO DEVELOP A VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE  
CONNECTICUT EDUCATION SYSTEM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
2       Planning Commission for Education to develop and ensure the  
3       implementation of a strategic master plan for public education in  
4       Connecticut.

5       (1) The commission shall consist of the following voting members:  
6       (A) Four members appointed by the speaker of the House of  
7       Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former  
8       superintendent of schools for a rural school district, one of whom shall  
9       be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a  
10      public school or has retired from teaching in a public school not less  
11      than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall be a person  
12      with knowledge and experience with students with special education  
13      needs and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and  
14      experience in systems building; (B) four members appointed by the

15 president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a current or  
16 former superintendent of schools for an urban school district in which  
17 a charter school and interdistrict magnet school are located, one of  
18 whom shall be a certified teacher who is currently employed as a  
19 teacher in a public school or has retired from teaching in a public  
20 school not less than one year prior to appointment, one of whom shall  
21 be a person with knowledge and experience regarding early childhood  
22 education and one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and  
23 experience in civil rights relating to equity, access and the quality of  
24 education; (C) two members appointed by the majority leader of the  
25 House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a current or former  
26 superintendent of schools for a regional school district and one of  
27 whom shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the  
28 state; (D) two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,  
29 one of whom shall be a current or former superintendent of schools for  
30 a suburban school district and one of whom shall be a parent or  
31 guardian of a student who is enrolled in a public school in the state; (E)  
32 two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
33 Representatives, one of whom shall be a representative of a state-wide  
34 business organization and one of whom shall be a scholar that has  
35 experience and expertise in the field of education from  
36 prekindergarten to grade twelve, inclusive; (F) two members  
37 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall be  
38 an entrepreneur and one of whom shall be a scholar that has  
39 experience and expertise in the field of higher education; and (G) nine  
40 members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a certified  
41 teacher who is currently employed as a teacher in a public school or  
42 has retired from teaching in a public school not less than one year prior  
43 to appointment, one of whom shall be a parent or guardian of a  
44 student who is enrolled in a public school in the state, one of whom  
45 shall be a student who is enrolled in a public high school in the state,  
46 one of whom shall be a person with knowledge and experience in  
47 systems building, one of whom shall be an entrepreneur, one of whom  
48 shall be a person with knowledge and experience in civil rights

49 relating to equity, access and the quality of education, one of whom  
50 shall be a person that has experience in the field of arts and culture,  
51 one of whom shall be a scholar that has experience and expertise in the  
52 field of psychology and one of whom shall be a scholar that has  
53 experience and expertise in the field of sociology. The commission  
54 membership shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic  
55 diversity.

56 (2) The following persons shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting  
57 members on the commission: (A) The Commissioner of Education, or  
58 the commissioner's designee; (B) the Secretary of the Office of Policy  
59 and Management, or the secretary's designee; (C) one representative  
60 from each of the following associations, designated by the association,  
61 the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, the Connecticut  
62 Association of Public School Superintendents, the Connecticut  
63 Federation of School Administrators, the Connecticut Education  
64 Association and the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut; (D)  
65 the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee  
66 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
67 education; (E) the chairpersons of the achievement gap task force  
68 established pursuant to section 10-16mm of the general statutes; and  
69 (F) the executive director of the Commission on Children , or the  
70 executive director's designee.

71 (3) The commission shall elect cochairpersons at its first meeting.  
72 Any vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. The term of  
73 each appointed member of the commission shall be three years from  
74 the date of appointment. The commission members shall serve without  
75 compensation except for necessary expenses incurred in the  
76 performance of their duties. The commission may seek the advice and  
77 participation of any person, organization or state or federal agency it  
78 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The  
79 commission may, within available appropriations, retain consultants to  
80 assist in carrying out its duties. The commission may receive funds  
81 from any public or private sources to carry out its activities.

82 (b) The commission shall articulate a clear vision and mission for a  
83 sustainable, equitable and high-quality public education system that  
84 coordinates the components of education reform, clarifies how such  
85 components of education reform work together and provides every  
86 child with access to an educational experience that meets such child's  
87 needs. The commission shall develop and ensure the implementation  
88 of a strategic master plan to carry out such vision and mission.

89 (1) In developing the strategic master plan, the commission shall  
90 address the following issues: (A) How to better organize the public  
91 education system to streamline various and disparate mandates,  
92 initiatives and reforms that may compete with the articulated vision  
93 and mission; (B) the manner in which the public education system  
94 utilizes data and supports to inform and improve the provision of  
95 education in the state; (C) the extent to which the testing and  
96 accountability system assesses the most worthy outcomes of public  
97 education; and (D) identifying and analyzing the most significant  
98 factors that exist in the public education system that effect and support  
99 the most worthy outcomes of public education for all students,  
100 including, but not limited to, poverty, socioeconomic and racial  
101 isolation, language barriers and parental engagement in a student's  
102 education.

103 (2) In addressing the issues described in subdivision (1) of this  
104 subsection, the commission shall consider: (A) What are the most  
105 worthy outcomes of public education and what means can be taken to  
106 achieve such outcomes; (B) the extent to which the public education  
107 system prepares students to meet the challenges of work, citizenship  
108 and life upon graduation; (C) strategies to develop state-wide  
109 education leadership goals and to enhance education leadership in  
110 conformance with such goals; (D) ways to ensure effective  
111 communication and partnership between school districts and the  
112 families of children who attend public school in such school district,  
113 with particular focus on diversity; (E) ways to share best practices  
114 within the public education system, including, but not limited to,

115 learning across methods, models and structures of educational  
116 excellence; (F) what innovations are necessary to excel in both  
117 competitiveness and character; (G) the extent to which the public  
118 education system empowers students and educators to excel, innovate  
119 and build on strengths; and (H) best practices that promote continuous  
120 improvement.

121 (3) The commission shall also examine and recommend changes to  
122 funding policies, practices and accountability in order to (A) align  
123 policies and practices with the articulated vision and mission; and (B)  
124 establish funding equality so that each school district has the resources  
125 it needs to provide an appropriate education.

126 (c) (1) Not later than February 15, 2016, the commission shall submit  
127 a preliminary report on the development of the strategic master plan  
128 together with any recommendations for appropriate legislation and  
129 funding to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the  
130 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
131 and appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a  
132 of the general statutes.

133 (2) Not later than December 31, 2016, the commission shall submit  
134 the strategic master plan, including specific goals and benchmarks for  
135 implementation, together with any recommendations for appropriate  
136 legislation and funding to the Governor and the joint standing  
137 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
138 relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with the  
139 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

140 (d) Not later than January 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the  
141 commission shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint  
142 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
143 matters relating to education and appropriations, in accordance with  
144 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the implementation of the  
145 strategic master plan and progress made toward achieving the goals

146 specified in the plan. The commission may periodically suggest  
147 changes to the goals as necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish a Planning Commission for Education to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic master plan for public education in Connecticut.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*